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**Cc:** Jackson, Ryan[jackson.ryan@epa.gov]; Flynn, Mike[Flynn.Mike@epa.gov]  
**From:** McCabe, Catherine  
**Sent:** Mon 10/2/2017 11:53:40 PM  
**Subject:** EPA Response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico  
Memo to Administrator re Hurricane Maria response activities in Puerto Rico.docx  
Region 2 Management Report 10-2-2017.docx

Administrator – Attached for your information is a short memo summarizing EPA's response activities and key EPA contacts in Puerto Rico. In case you have difficulty retrieving it, I have also pasted it in below. In addition, the second attachment is today's Management Report from our Regional Incident Commander, Eric Mosher, which provides much more detail, as well as information on our response activities in U.S.V.I. I have notified Carmen Guerrero, Director of our Caribbean office, that you will be in Puerto Rico tomorrow. Her contact information is included in the first memo and below, as well as the contact information for the field commander of our emergency response team in Puerto Rico, Geoff Garrison. If I can be of further assistance to you, please feel free to e-mail or call me on my cell ([REDACTED]) or office (212-637-5025).

### **EPA Personnel in Puerto Rico**

1. EPA has a permanent office near San Juan, in Guaynabo, with approximately 55 staff

The office is currently operational, running on generator power, but only about 20 employees have been able to reach the office. These employees are working to support the emergency response efforts.

#### **Key Contacts:**

Carmen Guerrero, Director, Region 2 Caribbean Environmental Protection Division (Office 787-977-5875; Cell [REDACTED])

Jose Font, Deputy Director (Office 787-9775815, Cell [REDACTED])

2. Region 2's Emergency Response Team (mainland staff deployed to Puerto Rico)

**Key Contact:** Field Commander in San Juan – On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) Geoff Garrison (Cell [REDACTED]; Satellite phone [REDACTED])

Geoff is working out of FEMA Emergency Operations Center/ Joint Field Office at San Juan Convention Center, and is at the center or in the field

Deployed team consists of 45 EPA staff and contractors. Additional staff and contractors are ready to deploy as soon as airline access and lodging (or ship berths) become available.

## **EPA Response Activities in Puerto Rico**

- Assessment of drinking water and wastewater systems
  - EPA personnel are working with federal and PR government partners to assess the conditions and water quality of the drinking water and wastewater systems
    - Federal partners: FEMA and U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
    - Puerto Rico government partners
      - PR Aqueduct and Sewer Authority (PRASA) (President Eli Diaz)
      - PR Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DNER), Environmental Quality Board (EQB) (Tania Vasquez, Secretary)
      - Puerto Rico Department of Health
      - Puerto Rico Department of Agriculture
  - Drinking water and wastewater findings to date:
    - 54% of PRASA customers currently not receiving running water (mainly due to power outages)
    - 18 of the 51 wastewater treatment plants are out of service; the rest are working on generator power; 5 sewage trunk lines have collapsed and 80 pumping stations are offline and overflowing sewage
    - EPA is working with the Corps of Engineers and PRASA to support plans for repair
    - EPA is working with the PR agencies (DNER/EQB and PRDOH), FEMA and HHS to warn the public against disease risks of contact with contaminated water
- Debris management
  - EPA personnel are working with Army Corps of Engineers, Puerto Rico agencies (DNER and EQB) to plan and oversee safe and effective management of debris (e.g., vegetative material, wet debris, solid waste and household hazardous waste). EPA

will focus particularly on disposal of household hazardous waste.

- Municipalities are generally responsible for waste disposal and are collecting hurricane debris, but need assistance.

- Facility assessment

- EPA personnel are assessing the condition of facilities that handle hazardous chemicals and oil, and Superfund sites. Assessments are being done remotely (by telephone to facility operators) and with field visits as necessary.

- Findings to date: No major problems reported. Puerto Rico has relatively few major chemical and oil facilities. Most Superfund sites (total of 20) are in advanced stages of remediation with little exposure to hurricane damage (many sites have only groundwater pump and treat operations still ongoing).